

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-8 will have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the herein contained remarks, together with the amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner the rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by STEINHUBER (U.S. Patent No. 6,204,966). Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection at least for the reasons set forth in the previous Response filed in the present application on February 21, 2006.

The Examiner indicated that claims 9-20 and 22-27 are allowed. The Examiner further indicated claims 2-4 and 6-8 as being objected to for being dependent upon a rejected-base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowability and allowable subject matter in the above-noted claims. Applicant obviously acquiesces in the Examiner's indication but respectfully submits that all the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance at least for the reasons set forth in the previously filed Response in the present application.

Nevertheless, and without in any manner acquiescing in the propriety of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 5, Applicant has by the present response canceled claims 1-8, thus rendering the Examiner's rejection and objection of the claims in the present application moot.

Applicant notes that he does not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejection but is merely canceling the rejected and objected to claims to expedite the allowance of the present

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application. Applicant particularly assert that all the claims in the present application are patentable over the STEINHUBER reference at least for the reasons set forth in the previous responses in the present application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

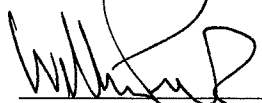
Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has canceled all the rejected and objected to claims without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis for the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication to such effect, in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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